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Editor's Note: Media are invited to attend the annual unveiling of this year's gingerbread creation on Thursday, Nov. 15 at The Royal Park Hotel located at 600 E. University Dr., Rochester, Mich. Photos and interview opportunities will be available at 10 a.m. with the ribbon cutting ceremony taking place at 10:30 a.m.

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit Continues Sweet Partnership with the Royal Park Hotel

Gingerbread creation to be unveiled on Nov.15

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., (Oct. XX, 2017) – [The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit](#) and The [Royal Park Hotel](#) will unveil the new and improved gingerbread creation, the Gingerbread Express, to the Rochester community at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the boutique hotel located at 600 E. University Dr. in Rochester.

Guests will view the eight foot tall, animated candied locomotive while sipping hot chocolate and listening to Christmas classics performed by The Salvation Army brass band. The festive event will support The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit's 2017 Red Kettle fundraising campaign.

The Gingerbread Express is brought to life by Royal Park Hotel executive pastry chef Mark Slessor and his team of creative bakers. The Gingerbread Express resembles an old-fashioned steam-powered locomotive complete with chocolate nuts, bolts and rivets. Black-tinted gingerbread accented with fondant looks like the steel found on vintage trains. And chocolate cocoa-butter painted gingerbread bricks adorn the wooden cart that houses Santa's toys.

Ingredients used to create the giant gingerbread locomotive include:

- 200 pounds of gingerbread mix
- 40 pounds of shortening
- 50 pounds of sugar
- 200 pounds of fondant
- 144 eggs
- 200 ounces of food coloring
- 50 pounds of candy

Beginning Nov. 15 and running through the holiday season, Royal Park Hotel guests and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase a paper mitten ornament for \$10 or \$25 at the front desk that will support northern Oakland County families in need. The David W. Elliott Charitable Foundation is matching every paper mitten ornament purchased...times two, up to \$5,000.

Guests can also support the nonprofit organization by ordering a decadent dessert off the Park 600 bar + kitchen menu. Dessert connoisseurs can consume a Traverse City cherry torte, deconstructed crème brûlée, sticky toffee pudding, Dutch apple strudel, carrot cheesecake, chocolate caramel cake or traditional beignets with \$1 for each dessert purchased going toward The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit's 2017 Red Kettle Campaign.

"This partnership marks the ninth consecutive year the Royal Park Hotel has chosen to support the philanthropic efforts of The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit," said Major Russ Sjögren, general secretary and metro Detroit area commander for The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division. "We look forward to working with the amazing staff once again to help give children and their families a joyful Christmas."

Since 2009, the Royal Park Hotel has raised more than \$45,000 to help northern Oakland County families in need.

The Gingerbread Express is available for public viewing through the beginning of January 2018.

About The Salvation Army

Founded by William and Catherine Booth in London, England in 1865, The Salvation Army is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving people in need without discrimination. This past year, The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit was involved in providing 2,570,994 meals and 663,364 nights of shelter for the homeless. The Salvation Army uses \$.87 of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need each and every day of the year. For more information about The Salvation Army, please call 877-SAL-MICH, or visit us at www.salmich.org.

About the Royal Park Hotel

The Royal Park Hotel is located 30 minutes north of Detroit. The AAA four-diamond hotel is within walking distance from downtown Rochester, home of the Big, Bright, Light Show. Featuring 143 uniquely designed guest rooms and suites; relaxed and understated elegance is the specialty of the house. With event space accommodating up to 1,200 guests, the Royal Park Hotel is the ideal setting for corporate meetings, romantic weddings, intimate receptions and gathering with family and friends. For more information, contact Sue Keels at 248-453-8709 or visit www.royalparkhotel.net.

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